GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A B S T R A C T

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – ACB Case – Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, - Allegation of corruption and collection of illegal gratifications/ mamools - Surprise Check conducted by the ACB Officials in the Office of Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District on 02.07.2018 - Case entrusted to TDP first and re-entrusted to Commissioner of Inquiries – Initiation of disciplinary action under A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 – Articles of Charge – Issued.

AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.315 **Dated: 01/05/2023**

Read the following:

1. Radio message in SC.No.03/SC-ACB/SKL/2018, dt.02.07.2018 Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti Corruption Bureau, Srikakulam range.
2. From the DG, ACB, A.P.Vijayawada, Letter Rc.No.57/DES-VSK/2018, dt.03.09.2019.
3. Govt. Memo No.AGC01- 30021/26/2018- (1), A&C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.15.10.2020
4. G.O.Ms.No.98, Gen. Admn. (Ser-E) Dept., dt.18.08.2022.
5. From the VC & Chairperson, Commissioner of Inquiries, G.A.(COI-R) Dept., U.O. Note No.1878240/GAD/COI-R/2022-2, dt.17.02.2023.
6. Govt. Memo No.AGC01- 30021/26/2018, A & C (Vig.I) Dept., dt.06.02.2023.
7. From the DG, ACB, A. P., Vijayawada, Letter Rc.No.57/DES-VSK/2018, dt. 24.04.2023.

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In the reference 3rd read above, Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, has been placed on defence before the Tribunal for Disciplinary Proceedings, under Rule 3 of A.P. Civil Services (Disciplinary Proceedings Tribunal) Rules, 1989, with regard to the allegation of collection of illegal gratifications/ mamools in the capacity of Mandal Agricultural Officer directly by misusing his official position from private dealers of fertilizers and pesticides in Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District, at his office for doing the official favour of not sending negative reports against their shops after conducting inspections on their shops and for recommending the "Order forms (O- forms) and thereby violating rule 3(1), 3(2) and 9(8) (A) of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and also the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada, was requested to furnish all relevant records and material to the Tribunal for Disciplinary Proceedings to conduct inquiry.

2. Further, an Ordinance to repeal the A.P.Civil services (Disciplinary Proceedings Tribunal) Act, 1960 and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, was published in A.P. Gazette, Part IV-B Extraordinary, No.6, Amaravathi, dt.16.08.2022 and the Government, among others, have issued the following orders in the reference 4th read above:

Para (2)(iv):

The A.P. Vigilance Commission will assign the cases received from Tribunal for Disciplinary Proceedings to the Members, COI for commencement/continuation of Inquiries as per the procedure, under intimation to the concerned Department of Secretariat.

3. Accordingly, in the reference 5th read above, the Vigilance Commissioner & Chairperson, Commissioner of Inquiries, G.A. (COI-R) Department has informed that the case against Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agricultural Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District, was entrusted to the Commissioner of Inquiries and hence requested to take necessary further action, as per the procedure laid down.

4. Now, it is proposed to hold an enquiry against the said Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and

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presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, in accordance with procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991.

5. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charge (Annexure-I), Statement of imputation of misconduct or misbehavior on which action is proposed to be taken against him as Annexure-II, a list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom the Article of Charge is proposed to be sustained are also enclosed as Annexure-III and IV.

6. Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, is directed to submit a Written Statement of Defense (WSD) within (10) days of the receipt of this order.

7. Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charge as are not admitted. He should therefore, specifically admit or deny each Article of Charge.

8. Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, is further informed that if he does not submit his Written Statement of Defense (WSD) on or before the date specified in para-3 above, or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 or the orders/directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiry Authority may hold the inquiry against him exparte.

9. Attention of Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, is invited to rule 24 of the A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings it will be presumed that Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District, is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of rule 24 of the A. P. Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

10. The receipt of this G.O. shall be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:

Sri G. Ranga Rao, the then Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and presently working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Tekkali, Srikakulam District.
(through the Spl. Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur)

Copy to:

The Spl. Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur,
(With a request to serve the original G.O. on the Charged Officer and obtain his dated acknowledgement on the Xerox copy and furnish the same along with his Written Statement of Defense (WSD) to the Government)
The Director General, ACB, Pandit Nehru Bus Station,
NTR Administrative Block, 2nd Floor, Vijayawada, A.P.
Sf./Sc.

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

(Contd. Annexures...)

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI GURUGUBELLI RANGA RAO, MANDAL AGRICULTURE OFFICER, SANTHAKAVITI MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRUCT.

CR.NO. 03/SC-ACB/SKL/2018 OF ACB, SRIKAKULAM RANGE

Sri Gurugubelli Ranga Rao, S/o Polinaidu, Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakavi Mandal, Srikakulam District (Here-in after referred as Government Servant) while functioning as such during the period between 03.08 2012 to 02.07. 2018 (till the date of surprise check) committed grave misconduct in as much as:

CHARGE: 1

That the Government Servant collected illegal gratifications/mamools in the capacity of Mandal Agriculture Officer directly by misusing his official position from private dealers of fertilizers and pesticides in Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District at his office not to sent negative reports against their shops after conducting inspections on their shops and to recommend the "Order forms (O-Forms)" and thereby violated the Rule 3(1) & (2) of AP. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

CHARGE: 2

That the Government Servant failed to account for the amount of Rs. 96,000/- seized from him and his office store room (although Rs. 46,000/- was seized from the store room and the store room was under the control of Sri Vidya Sagar, MPEO (who worked under the Government Servant) and thereby violated the Rule 9(8-A) of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, the Govt. Servant Sri Gurugubelli Ranga Rao, S/o Polinaidu, Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District by his above mentioned acts exhibited lack of devotion to duty, failed to maintain integrity, behaved in a manner unbecoming of Government Servant and brought down the prestiege of the Government and thereby violated the Rule 3(1) & (2) and 9(8-A) of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Sd/- Gopal Krishna Dwivedi
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

(P.T.O)

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI GURUBELLI RANGA RAO, MANDAL AGRIUCLTURE OFFICER, SANTHAKAVITI MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT IN CR.NO. 03/RCT-ACB/SKL/2018 OF ACB, SRIKAKULAM RANGE

Sri Gurugubelli Ranga Rao, S/o Polinaidu is a native of Achipolavalsa Village, Ponduru Mandal, Srikakulam District. His date of birth is 25.07.1979. He joined in Government Service on 03.08.2012 as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District and he is on duty on the date of surprise check i.e., on 02.07.2018. His basic pay is Rs.40,270/- He is due to retire on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.07.2039. He is here-in-after called as Government Servant (G.S)

CHARGE –I:

That the Government Servant collected illegal gratifications/mamools in the capacity of Mandal Agriculture Officer directly by misusing his official position from private dealers of fertilizers and pesticides in Santhakavi Mandal, Srikakulam District at his office not to sent negative reports against their shops after conducting inspections on their shops and to recommend the "Order forms (O-Forms)".

FACTS AND EVIDENCES:-

On credible information that the Government Servant was indulging in corrupt practices and collecting illegal gratifications/mamools in the capacity of Mandal Agriculture Officer directly by misusing his official position from private dealers of fertilizers and pesticides in Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District at his office not to send negative reports against their shops after conducting inspections on their shops and to recommend the "Order forms (O- forms)", a surprise check was conducted by the officials of ACB, Srikakulam Range on the office of Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District in the presence of official mediators from 12.30 hrs to 17.30 hrs on 02.07.2018.

The Surprise Check party, including the mediators, went near the office of Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal at about 12.00 hrs on 02.07.2018 and observed for some time and after confirming the Government Servant was meeting public at his chamber and entered into the said chamber in the Mandal Agriculture Office situated on the road leading to Ponduru from Santhakaviti at about 12:30 hrs. When the Surprise Check party entered into the said office, found one male person aged about 40 years with medium complexion clad in maroon color checks full sleeves shirt and black color pant sitting in a S-type wired chair in front of office table in the chamber of the Government Servant situated at the South East corner of the said office and found a bundle of currency notes on the table of the Government Servant. The ACB Officials found 3 female persons and 5 male persons in the office room of the office situated at South-East Corner to the Government Servant's room and store room situated to East side of Government Servant's room while South side of office room. The DSP, ACB requested all the persons in the office to cooperate with them.

Then the DSP introduced himself and the raid party members to the said person and requested him to reveal his identity. Then the male person sitting in the chair revealed his identity as Sri Gurugubelli Rangarao, S/o Polinaidu, age 38 years, Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District resident of Plot No. 283, 8th lane, P.N. Colony, Srikakulam (Government Servant) and further he joined in Agriculture Department as Agriculture Officer on 03.08.2012 and has been working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District since then and further informed that 9 private dealers, 1 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society and 1 company outlet of fertilizers are under his jurisdiction in the Mandal for this Kharif season. When the DSP, ACB asked the Government Servant about the bundle of currency notes, he stated that prior to arrival of ACB party, three dealers of Fertilizers and Pesticides in Santhakaviti Mandal came to his office with regard to "O" forms of their shops and went away and he did not know anything about the money on his table. On the instructions of the DSP, ACB, the mediators took the bundle of currency notes, counted and found it is Rs.50,000/- and informed the same to the DSP. Then the DSP, ACB seized the amount for further enquiry. Then on the instructions of the DSP, ACB, the members of the raid party made thorough search on

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the table and iron almirah in the room of the Government Servant and remaining 2 rooms and found a bundle of currency notes in various denominations in a card board box in the store room. Then, on the instructions of the DSP, the mediators took out the bundle of currency notes and upon counting they are totaling to Rs 46,000/- They also found Rs. 46,500/- and Rs. 25,900/- respectively in possession of Sri Vidya Sagar and Supriya, outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officers. When questioned about the cash, they stated that they sold away Maize, Paddy seeds etc., to farmers and further stated that Sri Sagar would hand over the sale amount daily to their Agriculture officer, who would remit the same to Sri Sai Agencies, Vizianagaram on the same or on the next successive working day. Earlier Agriculture Officer paid 4 lakhs to Sri Sai Agencies, Vizianagaram on 22.06.2018. There is no sales of seeds after 23.06.2018 and further stated that they received said amount about the previous sales, hence, it was returned and they produced one register containing 140 pages and on perusal, it contains names of farmers to whom seeds etc., sold and there was no mention with regard to sale after 23.06.2018. The DSP seized the above register duly attested by himself and us for the purpose of further enquiry.

When the DSP questioned the Government Servant about the Rs.46,000/- found in the card board box in the store room and he could not satisfactorily account for the amount and kept quiet.

Then the DSP, ACB seized the amount of Rs.46,000/-. The DSP asked the Government Servant to produce his personal cash, if any, available with him. The Government Servant took out his wallet from the back pocket of his trousers and produced Rs.500/- from the wallet. The DSP returned the personal cash of Rs. 500/- to the Government Servant under his acknowledgment.

On the instructions of the DSP, the raid party conducted a though search of the Mandal Agriculture Office, Santhakavi and found no incriminating material.

Then the DSP secured the presence of **Sri Bagadi Venaktaramana, S/o Sri Madhusudhana Rao, age 36 years, Dealer of Fertilizers and pesticides in the name & style of "Saptagiri Agencies in Siripuram village of Santhakaviti Mandal** and examined him in the presence of mediators. On examination, he stated that he has been doing fertilizers and pesticides business since the year 2004 in the name and style of "Saptagiri Agencies in Siripuram village of Santhakaviti mandal and he got license for his shop at Siripuram vide license No AGL®SKM/10/ADA/ FR/2013/4204, valid up to 25.05.2019. It is a practice that during Kharif season, the fertilizers dealers would pool up cash and handover cash to Mandal Agriculture Officer to recommend the "O" forms and not to make any adverse remark anything during inspections on their shops. On that day i.e., On 02.07.2018, he along with Sri Potnuru Srinivasa Rao of Om Sri Vinayaka Traders of Santhakaviti and Sri Potnuru Surya Rao of Sri Gayatri Stores of Santhakaviti came to the office of the Government Servant and gave an amount of Rs 50,000/- as mamools to the Government Servant at his office after collecting an amount of Rs.45,000/- from the remaining 9 private fertilizers shops in Santhakaviti Mandal (including Rs.6,000/- of Sri Srinivasa Rao and Rs.6,000/- of Sri Suryarao) and after adding his share of Rs.5,000/-

When the DSP questioned **Sri Potnuru Srinivsa Rao and Sri Potnuru Suryarao, they corroborated the aforesaid version of Sri Venakataramana** in the presence of mediators.

Then the DSP secured the presence of the following persons available in the office of the Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti mandal and examined them.

1. **Gorle Satyanarayana, S/o Suryanarayana, age 31 years, Agricultural Extension Officer, Gulla Seetharampuram cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Maddivalasa Seetharampuram Village, Vangara Mandal.**

2. **Palla Supriya, D/o Ramakrishna, age 19 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Vasudevapatnam cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District, R/o P.R. Rajupeta Village, Palakonda Mandal, Srikakulam District.**

3. **Muthika Swathikumari, D/o Thavitiraju, age 23 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Sriripuram cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Mandarada Village, Santhakaviti mandal.**

4. **Varri Laxmi, D/o Tatayyalu, age 23 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Mirthivalasa cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Maredubaka Village, Rajam Mandal.**

5. **Penta Venkataramana, S/o Simhachalam, age 35 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Mandavakuriti cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakavi Mandal, Srikakulam District: R/o Appala Agraharam Village, Santhakavid Mandal.**

6. **Kemburu Srinivasa Rao, S/o Appalanaidu, age 32 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Krishnamvalasa cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District, R/o Lakshmipuram Villag, Regidi Amadalavalasa Mandal.**

7. **Ayyagari Srinivasa Rao, S/o Ramakrishna, age 29 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Billani cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District: R/o Lingampuram Village, Santhakaviti Mandal.**

8. **Gurugubelli Vidyasagar, S/o Ramarao, age 21 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Manthena cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Waltair village, Santhakaviti Mandal.**

All the above persons stated that on 02.07.2018, while they were attending their routine work in the office room of the Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti mandal some persons came to their Mandal Agriculture Officer and met him at his chamber and went out of the office and at about 12:30 PM some persons came to their office and caught their Mandal Agriculture Officer, Later they came to know that the ACB officials conducted a surprise check on their Mandal Agriculture Office and seized an amount of Rs.50,000/- which was said to be collected from the dealers of fertilizers in Santhakaviti Mandal and also they seized another Rs 46,000/- from the store room of their office.

At that juncture, **Sri Ch. Venkatarao, Asst. Director of Agriculture, Rajam came to the office of Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti mandal** and on questioning by the DSP, he stated that he has been working as Asst. Director of Agri. Rajam Sub Division since November, 2014 and he is having jurisdiction over 4 mandals ie., Rajam, Santhakaviti, Vangara and Regidi Amadalavalasa and Sri G. Rangarao has been working as Mandal Agriculture officer of Santhakaviti mandal since 2012 and 2 regular Agrl. Extension Officers and 9 outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officers are working in Santhakaviti mandal and stated that Joint Director (agriculture) is empowered to issue Licenses to wholesale and retail dealers under Fertilizers Act for selling of pesticides. seeds and fertilizers and Asst. Director of Agriculture is empowered to amend "O" forms submitted by dealers after recommended by concerned Mandal Agriculture Officers.

The Joint Director of Agriculture, Srikakulam through his letter Rc. No. Estt(1)304/2018 dated 05.07.2018 furnished the service particulars and job chart of the AO and through Rc. No. Estt(1)304/2018 dated 07.08.2018 furnished that the Mandal Agriculture Officer of any Mandal will forward the applications of the dealers to the Asst. Director of Agriculture of concerned Division for issuance of "O-forms" in respect of fertilizers dealers and PCs (Principal Certificates) in respect of seeds and plant protection chemicals dealers.

All the above proved that the Government Servant collected illegal gratifications/mamools in the capacity of Mandal Agriculture Officer directly by misusing his official position from private dealers of fertilizers and pesticides in Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District at his office for not sending negative reports against their shops after conducting inspections on their shops and for recommending the "Order forms (O-forms)".

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Thus the Government Servant by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of Govt. Servant and thereby violated Rules 3(1) & 3(2) of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

CHARGE-2:

That the Government Servant failed to account for the amount of Rs 96,000/- seized from him and his office store room (although Rs 46,000/- was seized from the store room and the store room was under the control of Sri Vidya Sagar, MPEO(who worked under the Government Servant).

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:-

The Surprise Check party reached near the office of Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal at about 12:00 hrs and observed for some time and after confirming the Government Servant was meeting public at his chamber and entered into the said chamber in the Mandal Agriculture Office situated on the road leading to Ponduru from Santhakaviti at about 12:30 hrs. When the Surprise Check party entered into the said office, found one male person aged about 40 years with medium complexion clad in maroon colour checks full sleeves shirt and black colour pant sitting in a S-type wired chair in front of office table in the chamber of Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal situated at the South East corner of the said office and found a bundle of currency notes on the table of the Government Servant. The surprise check party also found 3 female persons and 5 male persons in the office room of the office situated at South-East Comer to the Government Servant's room and store room situated to East side of the Government Servant's room while South side of office room. The DSP, ACB requested all the persons in the office to cooperate with them.

Then the DSP introduced himself and the raid party members to the said person and requested him to reveal his identity. Then the male person sitting in the chair revealed his identity as Sri Gurugubelli Rangarao, S/o Polinaidu, age 38 years. Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; resident of Plot No. 283, 8th lane, P.N. Colony, Srikakulam (Government Servant) and further he joined in Agricultural Department as Agricultural Officer on 03.08.2012 and has been working as Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District since then and further informed that 9 private dealers, 1 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society and 1 company outlet of fertilizers are under his jurisdiction in the Mandal for this Kharif season. When the DSP, ACB asked Sri G.Rangarao about the bundle of currency notes, he stated that prior to arrival of ACB party, three dealers of Fertilizers and Pesticides in Santhakaviti mandal came to his office with regard to "O" forms of their shops and went away and he did not know anything about the money on his table. On the instructions of the DSP, ACB, the mediators took the bundle of currency notes, counted and found it is Rs.50,000/- and informed the same to the DSP. Then the DSP, ACB seized the amount for further enquiry. Then on the instructions of the DSP, ACB, the members of the party made thorough search on the table and iron almirah in the room of the Government Servant and remaining 2 rooms and found a bundle of currency notes in various denominations in a card board box in the store room. Then on the instructions of the DSP, the mediators took out the bundle of currency notes and upon counting they are totaling to Rs.46,000/- and also found Rs.46,500/- and Rs.25,900/- in possession of Sri Vidya Sagar and Supriya, outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officers and when questioned about the cash, they stated that they sold away Maize, Paddy seeds etc., to farmers and further stated that Sri Sagar would hand over the sale amount daily to the Government Servant, who would remit the same to Sri Sai Agencies, Vizianagaram on the same or on the next successive working day. Earlier Agricultural Officer paid 4 lakhs to Sri Sai Agencies, Vizianagaram on 22.06.2018. There is no sales of seeds after 23.06.2018 and further stated that they received said amount about the previous sales, hence, it was returned and they produced one register containing 140 pages and on perusal, it contains names of farmers to whom seeds etc., sold and there was no mention with regard to sale after 23.06.2018. The DSP seized the above register duly attested by himself and us for the purpose of further enquiry.

When the DSP questioned the Government Servant about the Rs. 46,000/- found in the card board box in the store room and he could not satisfactorily account for the amount and kept quiet.

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Then the DSP, ACB seized the amount of Rs.46,000/-. The DSP asked the Government Servant to produce his personal cash, if any, available with him. The Government Servant took out his wallet from the back pocket of his trousers and produced Rs.500/- from the wallet. The DSP returned the personal cash of Rs.500/- to the Government Servant under his acknowledgment.

Then the DSP secured the presence of the following persons available in the office of the Mandal Agricultural Officer, Santhakaviti mandal and examined them.

1. Gorle Satyanarayana, S/o Suryanarayana, age 31 years, Agricultural Extension Officer, Gulla Seetharampuram cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Maddivalasa Seetharampuram village, Vangara Mandal.

2. Palla Supriya, D/o Ramakrishna, age 19 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Vasudevapatnam cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District. R/o P.R. Rajupeta village, Palakonda Mandal, Srikakulam District.

3. Muthika Swathikumari, D/o Thavitiraju, age 23 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Sriripuram cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Mandarada village, Santhakaviti Mandal.

4. Varri Laxmi, D/o Tatayyalu, age 23 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Mirthivalasa cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Maredubaka Village, Rajam Mandal.

5. Penta Venkataramana, S/o Simhachalam, age 35 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Mandavakuriti cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer. Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District: R/o Appala Agraharam Village, Santhakaviti Mandal.

6. Kemburu Srinivasa Rao, S/o Appalanaidu, age 32 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Krishnamvalasa cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Lakshmipuram Village, Regidi Amadalavalasa Mandal.

7. Ayyagari Srinivasa Rao, S/o Ramakrsihna, age 29 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Billani cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Lingampuram village, Santhakaviti mandal.

8. Gurugubelli Vidyasagar, S/o Ramarao, age 21 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Manthena cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Waltair village, Santhakaviti mandal.

All the above persons stated that on 02.07.2018, while they were attending their routine work in the office room of the Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti mandal, some persons came to their Mandal Agriculture Officer and met him at his chamber and went out of the office and at about 12:30 PM, some persons came to their office and caught their Mandal Agriculture Officer. Later they came to know that the ACB officials conducted a surprise check on their Mandal Agriculture Office and seized an amount of Rs.50,000/- which was said to be collected from the dealers of fertilizers in Santhakaviti Mandal and also they seized another Rs.46,000/- from the store room of their office.

When the DSP questioned the above MPEOs and AEO about the unaccounted amount of Rs.46,000/- in the store room of the office, all of them concurrently stated that the room is under the control of Sri Vidyasagar, MPEO.

When the DSP questioned Sri Vidyasagar about the amount of Rs.46,000/- seized from the store room of the office, he kept quiet.

(Contd.p.7)

The Surprise Check proved that Rs.46,000/- was seized from the store room and the store room was under the control of Sri Vidya Sagar, MPEO, Sri Vidyasagar worked under the Government Servant. That the Government Servant failed account for that amount.

The facts and material so gathered revealed that the Government Servant Sri Gurugubelli Ranga Rao, Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam committed grave misconduct.

Thus the Government Servant by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of Govt. Servant and thereby violated Rules 3(1), (2) & 9(8-A) of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

The government servant has therefore rendered himself liable for regular departmental action for the major penalty before Commissionerate of Inquiries.

Sd/- Gopal Krishna Dwivedi
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
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ANNEXURE -III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH ARTICLES OF CHARGE FARMED AGAINST SRI GURUGUBELLI RANGA RAO, MANDAL AGRICULTURE OFFICER, SANTHAKAVITI MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT IS PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

1. Surprise check proceedings in 03/SC-ACB/SKL/2018:

It reveals the seizure of unaccounted amount of Rs. 50,000/- from the possession of Sri G. Rangarao, Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal (The Government Servant) at his office and another Rs.46,000/- from a card board box in the store room of office of Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal.

2. Statements of witnesses 1 to 13.

3. Rc.No. Estt(1)304/2018 dated 05.07.2018 & 07.08.2018 of the Joint Director. Agriculture, Srikakulam:

It shows the service particulars of the Mandal Agriculture Officer (The Government Servant) and the procedural aspects in issuance of licenses to dealers of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides, procuring the seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and distribution of same to the beneficiaries and also the Government Servant is competent authority to forward the applications of the dealers of fertilizers and pesticides for issuance of O forms

Any other witness to be required that will be produced at the time of enquiry.

Sd/- Gopal Krishna Dwivedi
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
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(Contd.p.9)

ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI GURUGUBELLI RANGA RAO, MANDAL AGRICULTURE OFFICER, SANTHAKAVITI MANDAL, SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT IS PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

1. **Sri Bagadi Venkata Ramana, S/o Madhusudhana Rao, age 36 years, Dealer of Fertilizers and Pesticides in the name & style of "Saptagiri Agencies" in Siripuram Village, Santhakavati Mandal, N/o Geddavalasa Narasimhapuram Village, Santhakaviti Mandal.**

   He is a Dealer of Fertilizers and pesticides in the name & style of "Saptagiriu Agencies" in Siripuram village of Santhakaviti mandal and examined him in our presence. On examination, he stated that he has been doing fertilizers and pesticides business since 2004 in the name & style of "Saptagini Agencies in Siripuram village of Santhakaviti mandal and he got license for his shop at Siripruam vide License No. AGL(R)SKM/10/ADA/FR/2013/4204 valid up to 25.05.2019 and it is a practice that during Kharif season, the fertilizers dealers pool up the amount and hand over to Mandal Agriculture Officer to recommend the "O" forms and not to remark anything during inspections on their shops and today on 02.07.2018, he along with Sri Potnuru Srinivasa Rao of Om Sri Vinayaka Traders of Santhakaviti, Sri Potnuru Suryarao of Sri Gayatri Stores of Santhakaviti came to the office of Mandal Agriculture Officer and gave an amount of Rs.50,000/- as mamools to Sri Rangarao at his after collecting an amount of Rs.45,000/- from the remaining 9 private fertilizers shops in Santhakaviti Mandal along with his share of Rs.5,000/-, Rs.6,000/- of Sri Srinivasa Rao and Rs.6,000/- of Sri Surya Rao etc., facts.

2. **Sri. Potnuru Srinivasa Rao S/o Madhava Rao, age 34 years, Bus Stand Road, Santhakaviti, Srikakulam District.**

   He is a Dealer of Fertilizers and pesticides in the name & style of Om Sri Vinayaka Traders, Santhakaviti. He corroborated the version of Sri Bagadi Venkataramana etc, facts.

3. **Sri. Potnuru Surya Rao, age 53 years, Komati Street, Santhakaviti, Srikakulam District.**

   He is a Dealer of Fertilizers and pesticides in the name & style of Sri Gayathri Stores, Santhakaviti. He corroborated the version of Sri Bagadi Venkataramana etc. facts.

4. **Gorle Satyanarayana, S/o Suryanarayana, age 31 years, Agricultural Extension Officer, Gulla Seetharampuram cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Maddivalasa Seetharampuram Village, Vangara Mandal.**

5. **Palla Supriya, D/o Ramakrishna, age 19 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Vasudevapatnam cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District. R/o P.R. Rajupeta Village, Palakonda Mandal, Srikakulam District.**

6. **Muthika Swathikumari, D/o Thavitiraju, age 23 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Sriripuram cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Mandarada Village, Santhakaviti Mandal.**

7. **Varri Laxmi, D/o Tattyyalu, age 23 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Mirthivalasa Cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District, R/o Maredubaka Village, Rajam Mandal.**

8. **Penta Venkataramana, S/o Simhachalam, age 35 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Mandavakuriti cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer. Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District: R/o Appala Agraharam Village, Santhakaviti Mandal.**

9. **Kemburu Srinivasa Rao, S/o Appalanaidu, age 32 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Krishnamvalasa cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Lakshmipuram Village, Regidi Amadalavalasa Mandal.**

(P.T.O)

10. **Ayyagari Srinivasa Rao, S/o Ramakrsihna, age 29 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Billani cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Lingampuram village, Santhakaviti mandal.**

11. **Gurugubelli Vidyasagar, S/o Ramarao, age 21 years, Outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officer, Manthena cluster, O/o Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakaviti Mandal, Srikakulam District; R/o Waltair village, Santhakaviti mandal.**

Witnesses 4 to 11 stated that on 02.07.2018 while they were attending their routine work in the office room of the Mandal Agriculture Officer, Santhakavi mandal some persons have been coming to their Mandal Agriculture Officer and met him at his chamber and moving out of the office and at about 12.30 PM, some persons came to their office and caught their Mandal Agriculture Officer. Later they came to know that the ACB officials conducted a surprise check on their Mandal Agriculture Officer and seized an amount of Rs.50,000/- which was said to be collected from the dealers of fertilizers in Santhakaviti Mandal and also they seized another. Rs 46,000/- from the store room of their office.

12. **Sri Ch.Venkatarao working as Asst. Director of Agriculture, Rajam Sub-Division. Srikakulam District.**

He is the Asst. Director of Agriculture, Rajam Sub Division. He is having jurisdiction over 4 Mandals i.e., Rajam, Santhakaviti, Vangara and Regidi Amadalavalasa and Sri G. Rangarao has been working as Mandal Agriculture Officer of Santhakaviti mandal since 2012 and 2 regular Agrl. Extension Officers and 9 outsourcing Multi Purpose Extension Officers are working in Santhakaviti Mandal and stated that Joint Director (Agriculture) is empowered to issue Licenses to wholesale and retail dealers under Fertilizers Act for selling of pesticides, seeds and fertilizers and Asst. Director of Agriculture is empowered to amend "O" forms submitted by dealers after recommended by concerned Mandal Agriculture Officers.

13. **Sri G. Rama Rao, Joint Director of Agriculture, Srikakulam District.**

He is the Joint Director of Agriculture, Srikakulam District. He stated about the procedural aspects in issuance of licenses to dealers of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides, procuring the seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and distribution of same to the beneficiaries and also he furnished the information through Rc.No. Est(1) 304/2018 dated 05.07.2018 & 07.08.2018 of the Joint Director of Agriculture. Srikakulam and etc., facts.

14. **Sri Geddavalasa Suresh Kumar, S/o Trinadha Rao, age 38 years, Veterinary Asst. Surgeon, Veterinary Dispensary, S.M. Puram. Etcheria Mandal, Srikakulam District. R/o Plot No. 14, DCCB-E Colony, Srikakulam.**

He is the Mediator-1. During the surprise check and he speaks about the contents of surprise check proceedings etc, facts.

15. **Sri Boddepalli Satish, S/o Appanna, age 27 years, Veterinary Asst. Veterinary Dispensary, Etcherla, Srikakulam District. R/o Door No.2-16, Boddepalli Village, Ponduru Mandal, Srikakulam District.**

He is the Mediator-2. During the surprise check and he speaks about the contents of surprise check proceedings etc., facts.

16. **Sri P.Srinivasa Rao, Inspector, ACB, Srikakulam Range.**

He speaks about receipt, surprise check proceedings conducted, examination of witnesses etc., facts.

17. **Sri K.Rajendra Rao, Dy.Supdt of Police, ACB, Srikakulam Range.**

He speaks about receipt, surprise check proceedings conducted, examination of witnesses etc., facts.

Any other witness to be required that will be produced at the time of enquiry.

Sd/- Gopal Krishna Dwivedi
CHIEF COMMISSIONER, RBKs &
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